



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office

1655 Heindon Road

Arcata, California, 95521

Phone: (707) 822-7201 FAX: (707) 822-8411

In Reply Refer To:
AFWO

SEP 23 2010

Becky Miller
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 8
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1729
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

Subject: Letter of Support for Riverside Ranch Restoration Project-National Coastal Wetland
Conservation Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Miller:

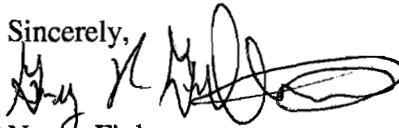
This letter is to inform you of our support for the Riverside Ranch Restoration Project proposal submitted by the California Coastal Conservancy to the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program (NCWG). Project partners will restore tidal influence and wetland habitat on the 400 acre Riverside Ranch property located in lower Salt River portion of the Eel River estuary in Humboldt County California. The Riverside Ranch project is part of a larger restoration effort to improve conditions in the Salt River Watershed including the headwaters area of the system.

The Riverside Ranch property was previously acquired with funds from the NCWG Program in 2007. Staff of the Coastal Program at Humboldt Bay provided significant technical assistance to California Department of Fish and Game in their effort to acquire the property in 2007 with the knowledge that restoring tidal influence to this property was critical to restoring the entire Salt River system. This year, Coastal Program staff provided several hours of technical review of restoration plans and attended several meetings regarding the restoration of the Riverside Ranch property. Other sources of support from the Coastal Program were provided by working with Ducks Unlimited in their effort to obtain a North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant for the project and they were successful.

The Coastal Program at Humboldt Bay recognizes the conservation value of restoring tidal influence to the lower Salt River and will continue to support the California Coastal Conservancy, the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, private landowners and other partners in their efforts to implement the project. During the next two years, the Coastal Program will likely contribute 80 staff hours per year of technical assistance to the project. This will include continued review of the restoration design plans, meetings with the project team and other project partners including private landowners, and some assistance as needed with regulatory issues as they relate to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

If you have any questions or would like more information about our support, please contact Paula Golightly of my staff at (707) 825-5123.

Sincerely,

(ACTING FOR) Nancy Finley
Field Supervisor

TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA 



State of California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Northern Region
601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001
www.dfg.ca.gov

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



September 22, 2010

Dr. Rowan Gould, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: State Coastal Conservancy Riverside Ranch Wetland Restoration Project Proposal

Dear Dr. Gould:

The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) has submitted a grant proposal to the USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program to restore the Riverside Ranch, Salt River, in Humboldt County, CA. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) supports the SCC Riverside Ranch Wetland Restoration Project proposal. We recognize the tremendous opportunity this project affords for fish and wildlife by expanding the Eel and Salt rivers' tidal prism, restoring vital wetland and riparian habitat, and providing a myriad of important habitat benefits to native fish, amphibian, avian, and other animal species throughout the Salt River watershed. It also has important benefits for landowners and Aleutian geese by providing attraction feeding areas relieving pressure on delta pasture lands.

CDFG has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to the Salt River Restoration - Riverside Ranch Project, especially since 2004 when it was identified as currently utilized coho salmon habitat by our Coastal Watershed Planning and Assessment Program. The SCC proposed project will facilitate the next steps required to transfer the property from Western Rivers Conservancy to CDFG. Upon completion of the formal transfer of the property, Riverside Ranch will then become the Salt River Unit, and be included within the larger CDFG Eel River Wildlife Area.

In support of the project, CDFG will work with other project partners to design, manage, and maintain the project area to provide optimal benefits for fish, wildlife and plants while fostering public access and enjoyment of the property. Therefore, we respectfully encourage you to support this important project to increase value of this vital estuary and watershed.

Please do not hesitate to contact Senior Biologist Supervisor, Scott Downie of my staff at (707) 725-1070 if you have questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

K Kovacs for

NEIL MANJI
Regional Manager

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Dr. Rowan Gould, Director
September 22, 2010
Page Two

ec: Messrs. Neil Manji and Mark Wheatley
Department of Fish and Game
nmanji@dfg.ca.gov, mwheatley@dfg.ca.gov

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4081
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4002
FAX (916) 323-6958

California State Senate

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT
CHAIR
BANKING, FINANCE &
INSURANCE
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEES:
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,
CHAIR

October 4, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project, Humboldt County

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I write to express my strong support for the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District's (HCRCD) *Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project* which is presently under consideration for funding by the Conservancy Board.

I recognize the tremendous opportunity this project affords for the agricultural community of Ferndale, as well as the fish and wildlife of the Eel River and the Pacific coast. Expansion of the Eel and Salt rivers' tidal prism, restoration of the wetland and riparian habitat and recovery of the Salt River channel will substantially benefit both the impacted landowners and to the fish and wildlife in the region basin.

Additionally, I am pleased to see the years of hard work by the Resource Conservation District and other regional stakeholders coming to fruition through implementation of this important project. I urge the Board's favorable consideration of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Wiggins".

PATRICIA WIGGINS
Senator, 2nd District

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

VALLEJO DISTRICT OFFICE
444 GEORGIA STREET
VALLEJO, CA 94590
TEL (707) 648-5312
FAX (707) 648-5383

NAPA DISTRICT OFFICE
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205
NAPA, CA 94559
TEL (707) 224-1990
FAX (707) 224-1992

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT OFFICE
50 D STREET, SUITE 120A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TEL (707) 576-2771
FAX (707) 576-2773

UKIAH DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. BOX 785
UKIAH, CA 95482
TEL (707) 468-8914
FAX (707) 468-8931

EUREKA DISTRICT OFFICE
710 E STREET, SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
TEL (707) 445-6508
FAX (707) 445-6511

Printed on Recycled Paper





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 5TH STREET
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

October 5, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite #1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project, Humboldt County

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to support the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) is submitting a grant application to the Conservancy to finish the design and final engineering. Our Board has been involved with the Salt River project for many years. We believe this is the most significant and comprehensive tidal and riparian restoration effort ever initiated in Northern California. The benefits to listed species like Coho and Chinook Salmon, Coastal Cutthroat and Steelhead Trout are well documented in this project.

Humboldt County continues to invest resources in this very important venture and we look forward to construction. We also look forward to our continuing partnership with the Coastal Conservancy and thank you in advance for considering the HCRCD's application.

Sincerely,

Clif Clendenen, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC:kh

RECEIVED

OCT 07 2010

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

MAILING ADDRESS: 1106 SECOND STREET, EUREKA, CA 95501-0579
 AREA CODE 707 / FAX 445-7409

ARCATA-EUREKA AIRPORT TERMINAL
 MCKINLEYVILLE

AVIATION 839-5401

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING
 SECOND & L ST., EUREKA

ADMINISTRATION	445-7491	NATURAL RESOURCES	445-7741
BUSINESS	445-7652	PARKS	445-7651
ENGINEERING	445-7377	ROADS & EQUIP MAINT.	445-7421
ARCHITECT	445-7493		

CLARK COMPLEX
 HARRIS & H ST., EUREKA

LAND USE 445-7205

June 3, 2010

Rowan Gould
 Director
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 1849 C Street
 Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Support for Riverside Ranch Wetland Restoration Project
 Humboldt County, California**

Dear Mr. Gould:

I am writing on behalf of Humboldt County to express enthusiastic support for the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Riverside Ranch Wetland Restoration Project. This project presents a tremendous opportunity for tidal marsh and stream restoration on filled former tidelands, as well as leveraging the benefits of other restoration activities in the Salt River watershed to restore functional ecosystem processes.

The Salt River watershed, especially the estuary and lower tributaries, has been identified at a regional and state-wide level to have high priority for restoration due to the significant potential benefits for salmonids, tidewater goby, and many other aquatic species. Proposed re-vegetation actions promise many benefits for migratory birds and other species. Although heavily sediment-impaired and having degraded riparian areas, the watershed's close proximity to the Eel River estuary and relatively low level of development represents a singular opportunity for coastal watershed restoration.

Our county supervisor for that district, Jimmy Smith, was involved from the beginning to help create and develop the vision for restoration of Riverside Ranch. His relationship with the former owner, and his efforts to bring project partners together, including the agricultural community, the City of Ferndale, and multiple state agencies, were instrumental in bringing the project to this stage of readiness. Supervisor Smith has spent substantial time explaining the connection between Riverside Ranch and other watershed issues, building support for restoration of the property, and advocating for a balanced management plan. His efforts over several years can be conservatively estimated to include at least 250 hours, which at a rate of

Rowan Gould

Page 2 of 2

June 3, 2010

\$60 per hour (salary plus benefits) has an estimated monetary value of \$15,000 as a contribution of in-kind services for the project.

In addition, Humboldt County Public Works Department worked with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy from 2007 through 2010 to help develop an enhancement plan for the property, communicate with adjacent landowners and other stakeholders, verify the absence of contamination in channel sediments, assist with hydraulic design, and manage other technical studies. Approximately \$150,000 of the \$300,000 grant from the Conservancy was used in support of restoration planning for Riverside Ranch.

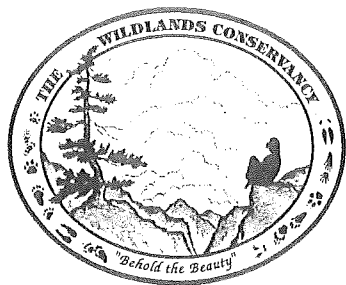
We look forward to continuing the work with the State Coastal Conservancy and the other partnering agencies and private landowners on this project, and we encourage your agency to support this once-in-a-lifetime restoration opportunity.

Sincerely,



Hank Seemann

Environmental Services Manager



THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY WIND WOLVES PRESERVE

July 26, 2010

Mr. Rowan Gould
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Gould:

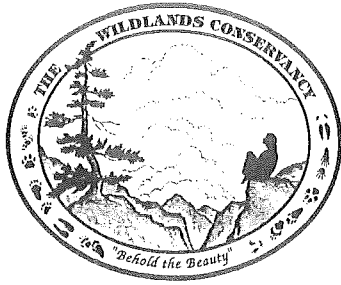
The Wildlands Conservancy is very supportive of the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Riverside Ranch Wetland Restoration Project. We recognize the tremendous potential for tidal marsh and channel restoration on the property, and the important benefits of the project to restore a functioning ecosystem to the larger Salt River watershed.

In support of the project, Wildlands Conservancy intends to work with local K-12 schools, as well as university level courses, to provide environmental education programs based out of our Sounding Seas and Eel River estuary preserve, formerly the Connick Ranch. Our property is located across the Salt River from the Riverside Ranch project area.

Our environmental education programming will interface with studies that will hopefully be attracted to this formerly unavailable area, and will include information related to wetlands restoration. We think the restoration of Riverside Ranch will not only provide a service to the watershed and to the community, but offer a wonderful educational opportunity.

We expect our various staff to spend time learning, planning and coordinating environmental outdoor education programs. Part of this has already begun with our organization-wide Ecologist, David Clendenen, studying projects in the area including restoration projects from design to implementation to public signage and information. At this time, we have budgeted two full time staff to the preserve, one of which will have as part of the job description public access and outdoor education coordination.





THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE

Currently, we would estimate that this would amount to approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually including our Ecologist's time as well as our full time staff member. A corresponding portion of other staff time (Conservation Director and part-time staff, as well as consultation with Associate Director/various Education Directors already staffing other preserves as yet to be quantified and included). Technically, a collateral portion of living expenses as well as staff time to coordinate community organization toward supporting outdoor education implementation should be included, which has yet to be determined at this time but could be estimated to amount to an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually based on known costs at other preserves.

As another reference point on our organization's dedication to outdoor expenses, on our Wind Wolves Preserve (95,000 acres in southern Kern Co.), our budget for Outdoor Ed alone runs in the range of \$190,000/annually. While TWC has many stages to consider and priorities from public access to restoration to outdoor education as we proceed with our management of the Eel River estuary preserve, we are committed to researching the outdoor education component.

We respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of a valuable estuary and watershed.

Sincerely,


Dan York
Associate Director

